

AMENDMENT

The following Listing of Claims, in which deleted subject matter is shown as strike-through text and inserted subject matter is shown as underlined text, will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims.

1. (currently amended) A method for screening for an agent which modulates transcription factor activity, comprising:

(i) providing a cell comprising a transcription factor of interest and a vector comprising a binding site for said transcription factor of interest operatively linked to a reporter gene;

(ii) introducing a plurality of candidate agents comprising a pool of expression vectors, each comprising transcriptional and translational regulatory nucleic acid operably linked to nucleic acid encoding a polypeptide ~~to said cell~~; and

(iii) determining the activity of said transcription factor by measuring the expression of said reporter gene, wherein a change in activity between the presence and absence of said candidate agents indicates the presence of an agent which modulates transcription factor activity.

2. (currently amended) The method of Claim 1, wherein said ~~plurality of candidate agents is a pool of~~ pool is a cDNAs clones from an expression library.

3. (original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising introducing into said cell a control plasmid comprising a constitutively expressed gene to monitor transfection efficiency.

4. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said reporter gene is a luciferase gene.

5. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said reporter gene encodes a fluorescent protein.

6. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said activity is inhibited.

7. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said activity is stimulated.

8. (original) The method of Claim 1, wherein said cell is a mammalian cell.

9. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said vector is a mammalian expression vector.

10. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein after a change in activity is determined, said method further comprises the additional steps of dividing said plurality of candidate agents into subsets each containing an individual candidate agent, and introducing said individual candidate agent into an other cell, wherein said other cell comprises a transcription factor of interest and a vector comprising a binding site for a transcription factor of interest operatively linked to a reporter gene, and determining the activity of said transcription factor, wherein a change in activity between the presence and absence of said candidate agent indicates a candidate agent which modulates transcription factor activity.

11. (canceled)

12. (previously presented) The method of Claim 1 wherein after a change in activity is determined, said method further comprises the additional steps of subdividing said plurality of candidate agents into subsets and screening said subsets of candidate agents by individually introducing one of said subsets of candidate agents into an other cell, wherein said other cell comprises a transcription factor of interest and a vector comprising a binding site for a transcription factor of interest operatively linked to a reporter gene, and determining the activity of said transcription factor, wherein a change in activity between the presence and absence of said subset of candidate agents indicates the presence of a candidate agent or candidate agents which modulate transcription factor activity.

13. (previously presented) The method of Claim 12, wherein the steps of subdividing said plurality of candidate agents into subsets and screening said subsets is repeated until an individual candidate agent which modulates transcription factor activity is identified.